



**Minutes of STICK meeting held in the
Conference Room, Summerlee Museum of
Scottish Industry
on the 25th November 2009**

Present

Karen Bell (Almond Valley), Rowan Brown (NMS), Alex Hayward (NMS), Stephen Raeside (Clyde Heritage Trust), Justin Parkes (North Lanarkshire), Megan Combe (NMS), Fergus Waters (Scottish Mining Museum), Miriam McDonald (RCAHMS, minutes), Michael Nix (Glasgow Museums), Clare Weir (North Lanarkshire).

Alex Hayward informed the Steering Group that one of its members, John Burnie of the Scottish Railway Preservation Society, died suddenly last week. John was a passionate advocate of railway preservation and a valued member of STICK. His passing is a great loss. The Steering Group observed a minutes silence in memory of John.

1. Apologies

Jenny Brown (Aberdeen City Museums), Miles Oglethorpe (HS), Georgina Ripley (MGS), John Hume (RCAHMS), Niamh Conlon (Falkirk Museums), Lyn Wall (NMS).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved

3. Matters Arising

Justin informed the meeting that the Collections Trust has been funded for another 12 months. STICK is deciding on whether to use this service.

The Collections Trust provides the SSN Connect service which provides each Subject Specialist Network (SSN) with a platform to enable the publishing of websites, share files and information, keep users up to speed on the SSN and so on.

ACTION: Web Action Group to meet

4. Conference Feedback

Karen noted that 13 of the 33 delegates returned their survey feedback forms. Karen and Megan circulated a summary sheet of the responses to the feedback sheets distributed on the day. Generally, it respondents felt that it had been a successful day. It was also suggested that a list of delegates be made available at any future event. An expanded Web service was seen as important. StICK is confident that there will be a similar event next year.

It was reported that Sir Neil Cossons has been contacted with regard to be a future speaker as has Dr Jim Arnold, retired Director of New Lanark Conservation Trust.

Six of the respondents showed an interest in joining the Steering Group. It was felt that the six interested individuals may not necessarily join the Steering Group but may wish to join one of the sub-groups dealing with the Web etc. It was agreed they all be invited to the next meeting in January 2010.

ACTION: MC

Alex Hayward plans to retire from the Chair at the next annual event. Sean Curran will represent North Lanarkshire on the Steering Group (as and when required) and Hugh Morrison will represent Historic Scotland on the Steering Group. Both Justin Parkes and Miles Oglethorpe will continue to be the main points of contact for STICK. It was agreed that the Steering Group skills set be reviewed next year as it has been 3 or 4 years since last considered.

**ACTION: Group to review skills set in 2010
RB to discuss with Jilly Burns**

It was noted that STICK had until now made a conscious decision not to be formally constituted, but that maybe this should be looked at again. STICK has always been a good mix, but there is still a shortage of private individual collectors to join STICK. There should be contacts with the Universities as well.

It was suggested that a meeting to be arranged with Museums Galleries Scotland to discuss more contact and involvement with MGS which is interested in STICK's organisational aims.

ACTION: RB/MC to arrange meeting with MGS

It was agreed that all STICK members be circulated with minutes, quarterly news items from STICK and elsewhere and summarised conference feedback. All Steering Group to pass on news, correspondence, web addresses etc. relevant to STICK aims and interests of members. There is a plan to post Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel minutes on the STICK website.

ACTION: MC/RB to co-ordinate

It was agreed that STICK should have more than one membership event per year. It was resolved that there be a May 2010 event at which a topic for debate will be chosen and key speakers identified.

ACTION: Steering Group

5. Update on Museums Association Effective Collections Scheme

The application for a grant from the Effective Collections scheme (looking at innovative ways for using collections in museum storage) submitted by Rowan Brown on behalf of STICK, has been successful. STICK has been awarded £25,000 to carry out the project. Sally Cross is the Project Mentor from the MA. The grant money has not yet been released. STICK will work with the charity *Tools for Self Reliance* (www.tfsr.org), who will send a list of the items they would want, but that it is mainly hand tools and sewing machines. The scheme will also cover other aspects of the project, such as a dedicated member of staff, shared storage and surveys of collections. All these would need to be discussed but the member of staff will be based within NMS. Contractors and shared storage will also be considered. The legacy of the project would hopefully encourage more donations to charities from museums and potential donors, and create a schools resource to look at the subjects of energy use and recycling. Treasures discovered during the scheme could be featured on our website with further details of the project. There will also be 4 drop-in sessions starting in May 2010 where objects can be brought to locations for inclusion in the project.

Planning will need to begin ASAP and contractors and consultants should be appointed in the new financial year. An educational Officer for the project is to

be identified to create educational resources for schools. East Dunbartonshire has been identified as a part of the project (they have a large Singer sewing machine collection). It has been suggested that the STICK all members email asked if any other suggestions are forthcoming for the technical consultant dealing with provenance, documentation and technical aspects of the project as well as the Educational Officer post.

Action: All suggestions to RB by 4th December

It was resolved to form a Working Group: Karen B, Justin P, Megan C and Rowan B and will meet to begin arrangements.

Action: Working Group to meet

6. European Route of Industrial Heritage Update

New Lanark, Verdant Works and Scottish Mining Museum are currently anchor points in this route. However, all three have indicated that the usefulness of belonging to ERIH is debatable from their point of view. A meeting took place at NMS two weeks ago between representatives from the three sites and ERIH representatives. This issue was flagged up at the meeting between the Minister and representatives from ERIH who were in Edinburgh to discuss World Heritage issues with Mike Russell.

7. AOB

Justin P circulated a Proposed Disposal List for items held by North Lanarkshire.

Michael Nix is moving to Somerset to continue with his personal research. He was thanked for his input into STICK over the years. Martin Bellamy of Glasgow Museums will take Michael's place on the Steering Group.

A locksmith is closing down in George Street, Edinburgh.

Action: RB to send contacts to MMD at RCAHMS

North Lanarkshire has gained museum status recognition.

Steven R informed the group that the Clyde Heritage Trust is investigating producing a newsletter aimed at independent status heritage groups and trusts. The National Trust has been approached to help produce the newsletter.

Megan C will send Steven R paper copies of the STICK Aims and contact details for distribution to groups and individuals who may be interested in joining STICK.

ACTION: MC/SR

Almond Valley Heritage is re-applying for Recognition status.

The Scottish Mining Museum will be appointing a new assistant curator in January 2010. The SMM also received the Visitor Experience of the Year Award 2009 from ASVA.

8. Date and venue for next meeting

TBC. It was suggested that MGS, Edinburgh may be a possible venue.

ACTION: RB and MC to arrange